

The Canadian Templar



March 2013
Newsletter



News and Report from the Grand Prior

Since this is our first newsletter of the year, let me take the opportunity to wish you all a happy, prosperous and healthy 2013. In some respects the Holidays seem like only yesterday, and some days they are a vague memory. During the Holidays I know many of our Knights and Dames actively helped out at local food banks, shelters, and other charitable activities. Some even went on mission trips to lend their assistance in Christian love. It is good to hear of these initiatives, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. It is important to inform our members of what is going on and if you are doing good works, let us know. It may even inspire others to get involved in something they never thought they would. Have a look at the calendar. There are many things happening, and with time our calendar will grow with opportunities to help out.



I encourage you to reach out and contact someone who you think shares the same ideals as ourselves and may want to become part of our Order. Almost every Investiture has people invested in a city where their sponsor does not live. Where do you have friends? Now is the time to be talking to your friends. The first Investiture of 2013 will be in Ottawa, on April 27, where Prior Sir Joe Peters will be turning over to Sir Bill Megill.

From March 19-24 all the senior leaders of OSMTH International will meet at the historical Templar castle in Tomar, Portugal. The purpose of the Grand Magisterial Council meeting will be for the election of the Grand Commander (currently Major General Robert Disney, USA, who visited Windsor last November with Grand Master Rea), the Deputy Grand Commander (currently Col Dr Marcel de Picciotto, France), and the Chancellor General (currently Rev Pertti Ruotsalo, Finland). I served on the Nomination Committee for these key positions and we have some very capable leaders from around the world who want to give more of their time and talents to further our Order. Our Grand Commander, MGen Robert Disney, has decided not to be re-elected. The electing body is comprised of the Grand Priors, who now represent 20 different countries. The terms of Office will commence in September when they are sworn into their new positions at the meeting in Greece. More details to follow. Anyone interested in attending please contact me. Also at this March meeting will be the motion to elevate a Priory (in Sweden) under the mentorship of Norway to Grand Priory status. For discussion will be the opportunity where the Portuguese government has approached OSMTH to participate in the historical preservation and promotion of the medieval Templar castle at Tomar.

Find something that interests you, stay involved, and sponsor a friend. Our world needs more people sharing Christian love.

Blessings and Happy Easter

CDR (Ret'd) Peter L. Kelly, CD, GCTJ
Grand Prior of Canada

Notable Upcoming Events

Canadian International

March, 2013: St James Annual Charitable Ball, Woodbridge

March, 2013, 19th to 24th OSMTH International Grand Magisterial Council Meeting, Tomar, Portugal

March 19th, 2013: St James Priory, Meet and Greet New Postulants

April 9th, 2013 Dinner meeting at Church of The Ascension, Windsor

April 27th, 2013 Investiture at Simon Peter, at Trinity Anglican Church in Ottawa.

April 30th, 2013: St. James Priory General Meeting, Toronto

May 8th, 2013: St James Priory, Meet and Greet New Postulants

May 10th Toronto Fund Raiser

May 25th Edmonton Investiture at the All Saints Anglican Cathedral, followed by dinner at the Edmonton Country Club.

June 4th, 2013 Dinner meeting at Church of The Ascension, Windsor

June 5th, 2013: St. James Priory General Meeting, Toronto

June, 2013: Status of Women, United Nations, New York

August 18th, 2013 Summer Social in Harrow

September 14th, 2013: St James Priory Investiture, Toronto

November 2nd, 2013: Priory of the Ascension of our Lord Investiture, Windsor

Forward news of any upcoming events at your Priory to
alastairi@electricscotland.com

NEWS FROM OUR PRIORIES



News from the Priory of Ascension of Our Lord, Windsor

The Great Canadian Flag Project (GCFP)

2/10 2013



The Canadian Flag is one of the most recognized standards in the world. Our National Symbol reminds all of the privileges of being Canadian. We live freely in a country brimming with opportunity. A nation founded on the premise of peace and security.

Our flag flew proudly for the first time on February 15th, 1965 on the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. From that moment forward it has flown on all manners of public buildings, at sports facilities, in public parks, on commercial buildings, at residential homes, at cottages, on planes, trains and automobiles, on backpacks, on blue jeans and as tattoos. We have seen it in parades, slung on the shoulders of victorious athletes and importantly draped on the coffins of our fallen Canadian heroes. It is as much a part of our life as any other symbol of our nationhood. It flies

proudly filling all who witness it with pride and passion.

A team comprised of Peter Hrastovec, David Woodall and your humble Knight, Michael Beale are seeking approval from the City of Windsor to gift a huge example as a tribute to Canada. We have an ever growing cast of volunteers quietly joining us in the work. This grand and prominent example of our Canadian Flag will stand at the foot of Ouellette Avenue. Its waterfront position will insure it will be clearly visible to those travelling down our main street and for miles around. It will rise 150 feet from the ground (that's 45.72 meters!) and will be 60 ft. x 30 ft. (18.288 meters by 9.144 meters!). There will be nothing more grand on the waterfront as our flag gently rolls in the breeze night and day. Protocol demands that if the flag flies at night it must be illuminated. And it shall be lit as a symbol of Canada for all to see.

Once we receive approval from City of Windsor, City Council, you will have an opportunity to be part of the team of thousands of Canadians who will participate in the dedication ceremony. The estimated cost of the project is \$250,000.00. Funding for this project is expected to come from private donations. We are delighted to have the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation agree to act as the project manager, holding funds received and providing a tax receipt to donors. That's right tax receipts will be available for your generosity. Following City of Windsor approval, we would be delighted if you would consider making your tax deductible donation to the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation. Stand by for an update!

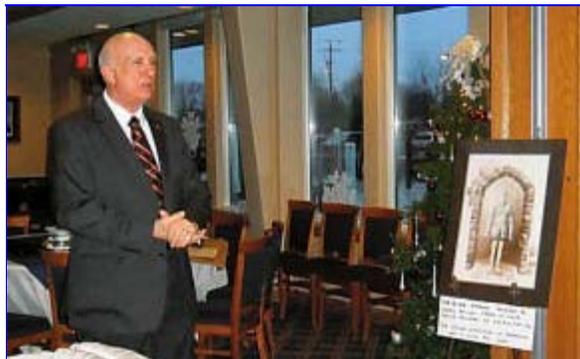
As volunteers we are humbled and honoured to bring this beautiful project to fruition. Come be part of the noble work and insure that future generations know we stood together that, "Dedication Day" and sang, "Oh Canada".

"BEAUSEANT"

nnDnn

S. Michael Beale KCTJ
Fund Raising Chair,
The Great Canadian Flag Project

Christmas Dinner







The original artwork featured in the photos is by Carol DelCol, the wife of Sir Roy DelCol and it is called *The Knight Before Christmas*. Carol has donated this work to the Priory to be used as a fundraiser and we will be holding an auction at our dinner meeting in April to raise funds for the Women's Shelter. If any Knight or Dame would like to bid I will accept and put forward your bid at the time.

SMOTJ Women's Shelter Christmas Dinner - Dec 21 2012

On Friday December 21, 2012 it was indeed our pleasure to provide Christmas dinner and gifts for one of our outreach programs, the Well-Come Centre for Human Potential. The Well-Come Centre's program encourages women to realize their full potential. They help women end the cycle of homelessness, poverty and violence.

The Church of the Ascension provided the use of their dining hall and kitchen. There were approximately 30 guests in attendance this year. "Chef" Sir Dave Beneteau and his side kick Sir Bill Varga cooked a delicious meal consisting of traditional turkey with all the trimmings. Dave has been cooking for this event since its inception and Bill has volunteered every year since he was invested. They are a great combination in the kitchen! They proudly wore their aprons with the title "Captain Cook" for Dave since he is a Captain in the Air Force Reserves and "Sweet Potato Peeler" for Bill as he not only peels all the potatoes single handily, but brings his own potato peeler which he claims to be older than him! At 80 plus years, I find this hard to believe.

Dame Commandeur Sheila Wright and I arrive early to set the tables, make the coffee and welcome our guests. Dame Commandeur Gillian Stefanczyk plans the event months in advance and buys all the gifts for the gift bags which each guest receives. The women were delighted this year to receive down filled vests, gloves, scarves, chocolates and toiletries. They enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas music, games, including their favourite "draw a pig" and decorated Christmas ornaments which they brought back to the shelter. Gillian, Sheila and I all proudly wore our "Church Ladies" aprons, which is the name the shelter residents gave us some time ago.

It is such a delight to provide this day for these women in need. They are so profoundly grateful for what we take for granted. To hear their peels of laughter as they forget their troubles even for an afternoon is a gift in itself. We sincerely hope to continue what has become a tradition for this outreach program and will keep all those less fortunate in our prayers.

Submitted by Dame Commandeur, Alice Beneteau



Gillian, Sheila & Alice with the gift bags to be disbursed



Dave cooking up a storm



Bill doing what he does best!

SMOTJ Women's Shelter Cookie Trays - Dec 15

On Saturday December 15, 2012 our volunteer bakers (all Knights, Dames and their families) brought their cookies to the Church of the Ascension to assemble the over 110 cookie tray orders that were received. With 5 dozen cookies on each tray, that is over 6500 cookies! The profits from the cookie sales are used to fund one of our outreach programs – The Well-Come Centre, a homeless shelter for women 18 and over. The event organizer Dame Commandeur Gillian Stefanczyk reported a profit this year of approximately \$2000.

The event was very well organized with each container of cookies labelled and placed around the outside edges of long tables. There were many varieties, colours, shapes and sizes of every cookie you could imagine! What a creative group we are! Like a well organized army, we filled our trays as Christmas music played in the background for inspiration. There was some sampling of the product of course and the time flew by.

A favourite from last year, the “mice” were well received again. The recipe below is simple and the result is too cute!

- 1/2 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 cup chocolate cookie crumbs
- Additional chocolate cookie crumbs for rolling
- Sliced almonds for ears
- Silver balls for eyes and nose
- Liquorice “shoelace” for tail

Melt chocolate chips; add sour cream and 1 cup cookie crumbs. Mix thoroughly. Cool in fridge for about an hour. Hand roll into a ball with a slight point at one end. Roll the elongated ball in additional cookie crumbs. Add ears, eyes, nose and tail. Makes 18- 20 “mice”.

What started out as a very simple idea with cookie orders being taken within our own ranks has turned into a very profitable and popular topic of discussion at our Investiture every November. We have literally become a victim of our own success and had to limit the number of cookie tray orders this year! What enormous success we have enjoyed with this project and what a wonderful gift to be able to participate and pass on the profits to others.

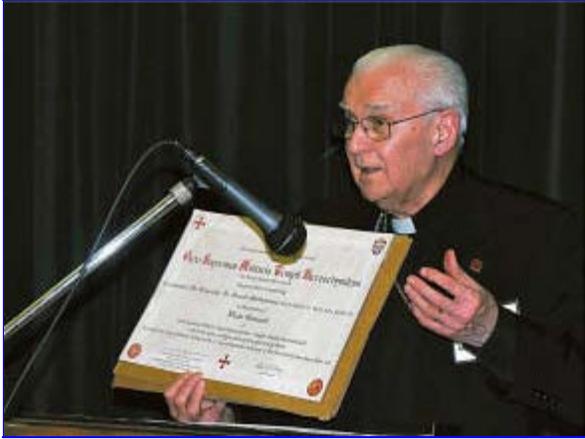
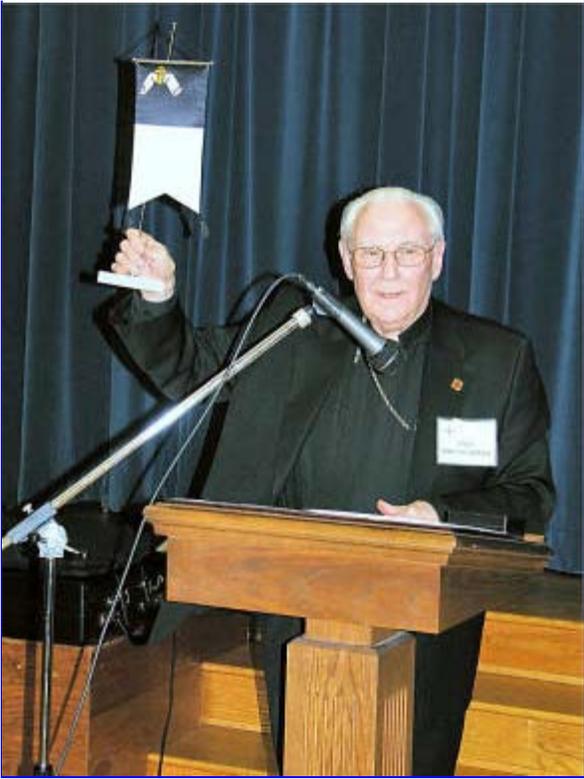
Submitted by Dame Commandeur, Alice Beneteau





Photo's - cookies delivered and ready to assemble onto trays
- assembly line ready!
- packed up and ready to go
- an army of "mice"

January Dinner



A GOLDEN RULE MOTTO

I SHALL PASS THROUGH THIS WORLD BUT ONCE,
ANY GOOD THEREFORE THAT I CAN DO, OR ANY
KINDNESS THAT I CAN SHOW TO ANY HUMAN
BEING,
LET ME DO IT NOW. LET ME NOT DEFER IT OR
NEGLECT IT, FOR I SHALL NOT PASS THIS WAY
AGAIN!

ANON

Canterbury ElderCollege--Where Life Begins at 55
By Sir Gordon Drake



The Canterbury College administration building and class rooms.

In our retirement years, teaching and learning are the spice of life. That is the common wisdom shared by the men and women aged 55 and older who take and teach courses through Canterbury ElderCollege.

ElderCollege began life under the wing of the University of Windsor's Canterbury College, headed by Professor and Principal, Dr. Gordon Drake. Launched in 2011, those first students eagerly attended 30 different courses. "We now have more than 70 courses this spring in Windsor and Essex County," boasted Dr. Lloyd Brown-John, founding director and Professor Emeritus at the University of Windsor. Registration began on Feb. 1st.

"The heart and soul of Canterbury ElderCollege is the curriculum committee," Dr. Brown-John believes. He works with volunteers in Windsor-Tecumseh, Lakeshore and southeast Essex County to brainstorm ideas and develop short courses. "I find it rewarding to watch people get excited. Next thing, they've got a course planned."

The range of courses reflects the broad spectrum of seniors' interests. Participants can study the history of railroads in Windsor and Essex County; learn flower arranging; hike through Point Pelee National Park with the Essex Regional Conservation Authority; discover how to outsmart their smartphones; and absorb Shakespeare with professor emeritus Don Laing before traveling together to Stratford to see two plays.

Courses range from a single two-hour class up to 16 hours of classes over several weeks. Fees

start at \$25 plus HST. The buffet option offers unlimited courses for just \$105 plus HST per semester.

Classes are held during the day in convenient locations: Retirement centres, libraries, museums and churches throughout Windsor and Essex County. As soon as the space is committed, even small communities can call themselves a "college town!"

Confirming that life gets better with age, even students who didn't like school in their youth love ElderCollege. "There are no assignments, no tests. It's designed to be enjoyable and informative," Dr. Brown-John assures. School back then was never this good!

That aim is evident in the course titles. All You Wanted to Know About Canadian Government But Were Afraid to Ask Your Mother. Tea – Not Just Your Granny's Cuppa' (an educational, two-session tea party).

The Essex County Library System, Windsor Library and Centres for Seniors Windsor host courses. The City is teaching the Administration of the City of Windsor. The Windsor Police Service contributes financial support and facilitates a course on elder abuse and fraud and scams perpetuated against seniors.

Although in its infancy, Canterbury ElderCollege is becoming well-known. In May 2011, the Ontario Legislature praised the unique model for holding courses in small communities and called upon government to examine province-wide development of similar ElderColleges.

Canterbury ElderCollege received a major boost in 2012 with the award of a Trillium grant, in partnership with the Windsor Centres for Seniors. As a result of the award, the Centres for Seniors has a new ElderCollege Learning Centre and an expanded range of opportunities for seniors.



Dr. Lloyd Brown-John (left), Founder and Director of Canterbury ElderCollege, and Dr. Gordon Drake (right), Principal of Canterbury College and Professor of Physics at the University of Windsor.

Several local realtors have linked www.uwindsor.ca/canterbury/eldercollege to their own sites, attracting Toronto-area retirees. After speaking with relocated seniors, Dr. Brown-John learned, "Canterbury ElderCollege is a big inducement for people to retire here."

Part of the draw, Dr. Brown-John thinks, is the class time devoted to refreshments or meals and fellowship. "The social component of Canterbury ElderCollege is very important," he says. It's rumoured that at least two romances have sprung from ElderCollege, proving it's never too late to have a college sweetheart!

Worship on the Island of Nevis
By Sir Stan Fraser



Nevis - photo of the church where Sir Stan Fraser participates during his visits

Our yearly trip to Nevis has evolved into a chance to work in the parishes of St. James and St. Thomas. Together these churches form one Parish. The economy is reliant on Tourism and for the last few years times have been tough.

During my time there I have had the opportunity to be part of the Parishes and to work with the members. The people of the Island consider their church and worship to be a special part of their life. The fact that virtually everything shuts down on Sunday allows Islanders to attend worship services.

Both churches overlook the water and when the shutters are opened, the view and the freshness of the air bring one closer to nature.

The two Parishes offer different approaches to their Celebrations. St. James provides an easy going form of worship while St. Thomas provides a full High Eucharist. No matter the part you have in the worship, you cannot help but be brought into the excitement of worshipping God.

My role while on the Island consisted of sharing in worship or leading the service. One of their strengths is the involvement of youth and children. The opportunity to be with and share the enthusiasm of the children means I always come away energized by my time with them. They participate in all aspects of worship and activities. There are opportunities for them at both the Parish and Deanery level.

One thing that had an impact of me was the way everyone regardless of their status would come wearing their "Sunday best." On any given Sunday the tradition of hats and gloves was evident. The year I was there over Easter, I shared in a two mile procession of Palms, led Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services along with co-celebrating on Easter Sunday. The spontaneity of their singing brings added life to their worship. After one sermon I preached the choir immediately began to sing the hymn that I quoted.

The poverty on the Island is evident, yet they take pride in their accomplishments. To visit their schools where all wear uniforms, shows the importance the Church Schools place on education. Schools often offer activities on Saturday.

When one tours the island and sees the living conditions, you wonder how they survive, and then give thanks for what we have here in Canada. You can understand the importance of the church and the support it can bring not only spiritually but also with physical needs.

In an area where money is not always available, the churches carry on because the members give of their time and effort.

This coming winter we head again to the Island and I will perhaps have another opportunity to share in the ministry of the Parish of St. James and St. Thomas.

Windsor Port Authority Declares "Let's Can Hunger" a Success By Sir Peter Berry, the Windsor harbourmaster

In November 2012, the Windsor Port Authority recognized the growing need for food bank and community program support and committed to ensuring that vital organizations in Sandwich Town such as the St. Johns Anglican Church Food Bank, Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG), and Windsor West Citizens Organization are able to keep their shelves and community meals programs stocked.

"Let's Can Hunger", was a food drive to benefit the community of Old Sandwich Town launched by the staff at the Windsor Port Authority in early November 2012. The Port Authority reached out to the marine business community and numerous port users/ partners such as Sterling Fuels Limited to provide food or money donations to support the St. Johns Food bank as well as the community meal programs at the Windsor West Citizens Organization and Sandwich Teen Action Group. The community meals program teaches youth how to cook while at the same time provides hot nutritious meals that might not otherwise be available to them.



Some of the food stacked in the lobby of the Port office

"Over a ton of food was raised in just six weeks." said Sir David Cree, a Knight's Templar and President and CEO of the Windsor Port Authority, "The level of generosity throughout the Port and the community has been amazing and is reflective of the caliber of businesses and organizations that operate in the Sandwich Town community. There was no hesitation to provide help and support when it was needed. They all answered the call to help. We look forward to continuing to support the Sandwich community and are thankful for the services that these community based organizations provide to those in need." Sterling Fuels Limited was a significant donor to the food drive.

Peter Kelly, President of Sterling Fuels Limited and Canadian Grand Prior stated, "As a corporation operating in this area we are dedicated to assist where need exists. It is our pleasure to assist in this program and look to continuing to help during the year and next year's food drive as well. Community support is a significant belief of mine and our entire organization".

Reverend Bill Bradley of St Johns Church/ Mission to Seafarers was thrilled with the donation. "This time of year there is always a great demand and to have the Windsor Port Authority and the organizations in this area donate so generously is very much appreciated. The Port Authority and the other business and organizations have in the past and continue to support the community in

Sandwich and we are very thankful for their participation”.

John Elliot, Executive Director of the Sandwich Teen Action Group stated that “Community partnerships are critical to keeping programs operating and we have enjoyed a strong partnership with the Port Authority over the past several years. We have done community clean ups, anti-graffiti programs and so much more with the Port and this food donation goes a long way in keeping our learn to cook program going. As the kids learn to cook for themselves, they end up making more meals for other youth that come to the center hungry.” A similar meal program is provided by the Windsor West Citizens Organization.

The food donations currently completely fill up the reception area of the Windsor Port Authority office and are anticipated to be distributed by end of day December 20, 2012 by the Port staff including Sir Peter Berry, a Knights Templar and the Port Harbour Master with assistance by the Mission to Seafarers volunteers.



left to right John Elliot- Executive Director Sandwich Teen Action Group, Ben Irwin Youth Opportunities Worker-New Beginnings. Sorting through the food donation at the Sandwich Teen Action Group

The Sandwich Teen Action Group (STAG) is a community- based charitable organization responding to the needs of youth in the Windsor-Essex County area. It is committed to providing a gathering place for at-risk youth and programs for positive life experiences that enable youth to find support, cope with problems and lead healthy lives. The STAG is a safe haven that focuses on teaching the youth responsibility and accountability to the community. It gives them a place to go when home may not be a stable environment and meals are an exception. The organization willingly accepts donations of food, clothing and funds. It has given youth hope and guidance that leads them to be significant contributors to the good of the community and many have gone onto exceptional lives. A proud “graduate” who grew up at the STAG, is Windsor’s own Walter Spencer who is a 9 year professional football player and a three time CFL Grey Cup Champion in 2009, 2010 with the Montreal Alouettes and last year’s 2012 Toronto Argonauts. Mr. Spencer is also the owner of Top Player Athletic Training Facility based in Windsor and attributes his success to what he learned and experienced at the Sandwich Teen Action Group.

The Windsor West Citizens Organization has been in existence since 1978, and is a support resource for the residents of a public housing complex of just under 400 town house units. It is a grassroots Organization that supplies and supports community development in the west end of Windsor. For over 30 years the Windsor West Citizens have worked with to do events for as many as 400 children. The food donations went to assist their hot meal program, where children living in

the local public housing units are invited to come and learn to cook responsibly and nutritiously as well as take in a meal that they may not always have available to them. The significant aspect of this program like the STAG program is that the children learn to make responsible choices not only in cooking but in serving their community. When the children come to learn to cook, they also learn the value of helping others as the meal that they cook will also feed others who come to the center. They have to clean up from the meals and return the area as it was found which teaches them how to take of not only themselves but perhaps other family members.



Me with Liz Travis, support worker St. Joseph Cares-Windsor West Citizens Coalition with the food donation stacked on the table

St. Johns Anglican Church, Sandwich, Windsor is a member of the Windsor Essex Food Bank Association that provides support within the community of Sandwich and also houses the Mission to Seafarers Chapter. This is the oldest parish in the Sandwich Town area and provides faith and hope to many of the needy in that community.



left to right John Elliot-Executive Director Sandwich Teen Action Group, Liz Travis Support Worker- St Josephs Cares, my two sons whole help out Brandon Berry and Bradley Berry

All these organizations especially the Sandwich Teen Action Group work daily and devotedly with youth at risk in the Sandwich Town community. They work alongside other organizations like New Beginnings to give youth a hope that there is a brighter future and they are not alone in their present struggles. Often all it takes to make one change their path in life is to hear the words, "I am with you. You are not alone." Our youth at risk need to know that we are with them and have not turned on backs on them. There is no greater feeling then seeing the face of a teen who feels he or she is safe. We should all take the time to remove the pain from their faces.

Note: Sir Peter Berry is the Harbour Master with the Windsor Port Authority. The Windsor Port Authority administers federal lands within the Port and serves as a collective spokesperson for the port users representing their interests on various municipal, provincial, and federal issues.

Boccia Ball evening at Malden Park Continuing Care Centre





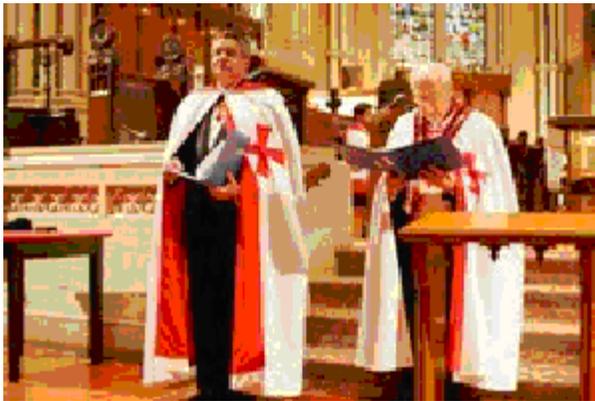
In the front row are the patients and in the rear are the volunteers, Slvana, Eleanor, Roy (Prior) and Terry (Chancellor). We have been volunteering at this location for over seven years and it brings so much happiness to all the patients.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal

Four of our members received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal - Sir George McMahon, Sir Spike Bell, Sir Terry Hall and Dame Amanda Gellman.

News from St James Priory, Toronto

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRIOR RANDAL



Dear Sister and Brother Templars, as we have now moved into another year I would like to Thank each and every one of you. One knows that the greater the loyalty of a Knight and Dane toward our Priory, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve our set goals, and simultaneously, the greater the probability will be for our Priory to achieve its goals.

Although there are many challenges facing us this year, I would like to Thank our Newsletter team and those Knights & Danes who offer articles from time to time. Communicating ideas is vital in keeping the lifeline of our members in touch with our projects, our events, our finances and a means to remind Templars that our work is never ever finished as long as humankind does not lay down its weapons of war and take up the Dove of Peace.

I ask you dear Brothers and Sisters, what is important in life? Sitting on a beach? Looking at

Television eight hours a day? I think not, I believe we all understand that our time on this planet called earth is limited and as Templars, it is our sworn duty to carry out task for our fellow human being. That being the case for each of us, then I would put forward that it is vitally important to haul together as one in accomplishing our goals and do our duty as well as we are able to do so. By so doing, we will all have pride in not only ourselves, our fellow Dane & Knight but also our Priory. Money is like a sixth sense without which you cannot make a complete use of the other five. Our financial objectives this year amount to these projects which are the foundation of St. James' Priory: Holy Land, which we need to raise \$5,000.00; projects at St. James Cathedral in the amount of \$1,000.00 and our special project of providing clean water to those in third world countries that have none the amount of \$2,680.00 is required.

Albert Einstein wrote, "Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value". I quote this passage to remind those that have not yet volunteered to sit on one of our committees that your expertise is needed. Each committee works towards the greater good of humankind under the flag of our Priory. Please consider providing some of your discretionary time to your Priory by joining the committee of your liking.

Authentic values are those by which a life can be lived, which can form a people that produce great deeds and thoughts. These are the qualities in postulants we are seeking for next fall's Investiture. Individuals who know who they are, who are able to devote time, talent and resources towards our Priory's goals. Should you know of such a special individual you are asked to contact Chevalier Neven and you will be provided with a membership kit.

In closing I would remind you that the Templar who reads nothing at all about the Templars is not informed resulting in a Templar who has forgotten that one of his/her tenacity upon entering our Priory was to maintain a level of conative knowledge about the Templars. So read this newsletter and should you so be moved, offer an article or two. It is suggested that you read other than this simple Newsletter but also historical records/books about our ancestor.

Draft of our Templar Tour of Southern France
Oct 15 -24 2013

Price including air will be \$4189.00 including air to and from Toronto Toulouse, excellent hotels breakfast and guide services based on Shared accommodations . Single add \$750.00.

Contact Ed Rayment at 416 254 1999 or email him at erayment@me.com

News from the Priory of Simon Peter, Ottawa

Our charitable work is getting into full swing. Knight Rob Mariani is shown with his gang with the first round of equipment collections. We are collecting hockey equipment to ship to Inuit children in the north.



"Our kids grow so fast, there is always some old equipment lying around. Now it's not collecting dust, it's going to kids who need it," said Knight Rob Mariani.

Different members of the Priory are bringing together different skills. Knight Commander Bill Megill is working hard to coordinate contacts and shipping options. Knights Wayne Yetman (equipment) and Frank Ritchie (shipping containers) are also getting things into high gear.

"It's a real team approach," said Prior Joe Peters. "We are bringing together our contacts and expertise to mobilize shipments of equipment to those youth who really need some help." Equipment costs in the North can be upwards of ten times what we could pay in Southern Canada.

Simon Peter promises to keep you all updated on progress as well as the potential for other Pories to contribute in the future.

The Priory of Simon Peter will hold its investiture on 27 April, 2013 at Trinity Anglican Church in Ottawa. We have several new postulants to bring into the Priory, and would welcome any others from the Ottawa area or elsewhere who would like to be invested at this time. At this investiture we will also be installing a new Prior. Knight Commander Joe Peters, the second Prior of Simon Peter, will be handing over the reins to Knight Commander Bill Megill. The Priory is grateful that Joe has pledged his continuing support as a member in the face of a young family and professional commitments.

Bill, one of the charter members of the Priory, is becoming Prior of Simon Peter after 55 years in the service of Canada, for which he was recently awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He first served for 36 years as an officer of the Armoured Corps of the Canadian Army, in three provinces (Alberta, Ontario and Quebec), and outside Canada in England, Germany, Pakistan, the United States and Austria; the Megill family moved 17 times. He then joined the Public Service in the Solicitor-General's Secretariat for three years, and served for a further 16 years as a senior land claims and self-government negotiator (two more moves!) with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, mainly in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

The Priory of Simon Peter thanks Prior Joe Peters for his devotion to the Priory, for his unflinching good humour in all his dealings with the members, and for his leadership in developing the Priory in its early years. We are confident that Bill will continue the responsible and caring tradition established by his two predecessors.

News from the Commandry of Edmonton

The Edmonton Commandry was formed 2 years ago. The first Annual Investiture ceremony took place in June 2011 at the Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. The second Investiture Ceremony took place in May 2012 at the All Saints Anglican Cathedral. Charity events to date have been volunteering at the Seniors Outreach Networks Society Christmas Dinner. Several social functions combined with familiarization for potential new members have taken place.

We now have 8 Knights (banker, engineer/management consultant, financial consultant, Crown prosecutor, anesthesiologist, university business management lecturer and a cathedral Dean) as well as 4 Postulants (parish priest, a commercial lawyer, Deacon/lecturer, University lecturer) and a Page-in-Training. Several prospective members are "waiting in the wings" for this coming investiture as it looks to be the conversion from Commandry to Priory. We hope to have a significant turnout for our May Investiture to celebrate our successes.

Monthly meetings have been held recently at St. Joachim's Roman Catholic (French) Parish Church. So now we have strong links with 3 different Christian denominations. Giving us a permanent home for the foreseeable future.

We have been busy completing our byelaws and a regularly strategic plan and schedule our development. A recruiting leaflet has been through a number of drafts and is about to be published. Our web site address is www.edmontontemplars.com and e-mail communications may be sent through our Facebook page "Priory of Edmonton OSMTH Canada". A Page/Squire program

has been formulated and a number of prospective Page candidates have been identified. We are hopeful this will be a pioneering effort and set the bar for our other priorities to look into this type of program.

The coming year has a number of events lined up. A shoe drop-off program is about to "hit the streets" through our 3 churches and World Health centres. A community charitable event is planned for March 16th and various social/recruiting events are scheduled through to Christmas.

Our third Annual Investiture Ceremony will take place on May 25th at the All Saints Anglican Cathedral, followed by dinner at the Edmonton Country Club. At this time 10 or more additional members are expected to be invested. We're hoping to see anyone and everyone that wants to come and enjoy a little Western Hospitality and to quote a templar from another city "I look forward to this Investiture every year, you guys are such a great group and I always have so much fun here."

It is with great pride that I share this with our members both locally and nationally that Bert Malo KTJ has distinguished himself through some of his vocal skills and as many of you have seen first hand is an outstanding vocalist. [Read this article here.](#)

I wanted to share this with you as each of our members has a special and unique skill set they bring to the table. The fact that we are all working towards a common goal and a common good means that with all of our skill sets (maybe not publicized) are going to take this group to greatness and be a shining example for our community and our order.

We will leave you with that and hope to see you all in May.

nnDnn

Rob MacMullen

Pope Benedict resigns, Canadian cardinal among potential successors

From the Globe and Mail Monday, Feb. 11 2013



Pope Benedict XVI has stunned the world with his decision to resign on Feb. 28. He is the first pontiff to resign while in office in nearly 600 years.

The Pope, 85, is in declining health and recently has been using a cane. He announced his decision in Latin during a meeting of Vatican cardinals on Monday morning.

The news comes as shock to the Vatican and to Roman Catholics. There was no speculation that his post would cease before his death. Speaking in Latin, the Pope said he is resigning in "full freedom."

His resignation will trigger a scramble to find a successor. One potential candidate is thought to be Canadian Cardinal Marc Ouellet, who was appointed Cardinal in 2003. Cardinal Ouellet, 68, is prefect of the Congregation of Bishops and also president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

There was no obvious contender when Benedict was elected pontiff in 2005 after the death of Pope John Paul II.

Cardinals do not openly campaign to be the next pope — doing so is considered extremely bad form and would put them out of the running. But the multi-lingual Canadian Cardinal, whose has had wide experience in Latin America, is said to be respected by Benedict and has the advantage of being a geo-politically neutral candidate, in the sense that he is not European or American.

The Pope said his strength is no longer adequate to continue in office due to his advanced age. The Pope added that he is “fully aware of the gravity of this gesture.”

The Vatican said the Pope's resignation means the papacy will be vacant until a successor is chosen. The Pope is to spend his last two weeks on the job at his summer residence just outside of Rome, at Castel Gandolfo.

In a statement that can be heard on Vatican Radio, the Pope said:

"I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfil the ministry entrusted to me."

The last pope to resign was Pope Gregory XII, who stepped down in 1415 in a deal to end the Great Western Schism among competing papal claimants.

After the long reign of a Polish pope, John Paul II, and a German pope, the Italian Catholic Church will no doubt put a lot of pressure on cardinals who to support for an Italian for the papacy. But new Roman Catholics are increasingly not Europeans; the growth is in Africa and Latin America.

Forty-two per cent of the world's 1.2 billion-strong Catholic population, the largest single block in the Church, live in Latin America compared to 25 per cent in its European heartland.

The new pope will be chosen through a conclave, a special gathering of cardinals who are sequestered in Sistine Chapel at the Vatican until they can agree on a successor.

When Benedict was elected pope at age 78 — already the oldest pope elected in nearly 300 years — he had been already planning to retire as the Vatican's chief orthodoxy watchdog to spend his final years writing in the “peace and quiet” of his native Bavaria.

Benedict himself raised the possibility of resigning if he were simply too old or sick to continue on in 2010, when he was interviewed for the book “Light of the World.”

“If a pope clearly realizes that he is no longer physically, psychologically and spiritually capable of handling the duties of his office, then he has a right, and under some circumstances, also an obligation to resign,” the Pope said.

The Vatican is insisting that the Pope's resignation has nothing to do with the church's sexual-abuse scandals or with anything to do with his former butler, Paolo Gabriele, convicted by a Vatican tribunal for leaking secret papal documents.

What will Pope Benedict be remembered for? Longevity is one. When he was appointed pope eight years ago, he was considered a “transitional” figure, that is, he was not expected to last for more than two or three years.

Longevity has been something of a curse for Benedict, because it came with the brunt of the pedophilia scandals, the butler-theft affair and epic problems at the Vatican Bank, which did not meet anti-money laundering standards.

On the abuse scandals, the Pope had a mixed record. He certainly did more than any other pope to crack down on offenders within the Church — most of the abuse took place before he was pope — but he has been criticized for not doing enough. For instance, when he was archbishop of Munich, a known molester in the church was re-assigned, not fired.

Before he became pope, Benedict, then Cardinal Ratzinger of Germany, had the responsibility to deal with abuse cases as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He worked hard to clean up the church, but, again, he was criticised for not being tougher.

As long time pope watcher John Hooper of the Guardian wrote, "a letter he issued in 2001 to diocese around the world did not make sufficiently clear the responsibility of bishops to inform civil authorities" about sexual abuse cases.

Here is a copy of his letter...

Dear Brothers,

I have convoked you to this Consistory, not only for the three canonizations, but also to communicate to you a decision of great importance for the life of the Church. After having repeatedly examined my conscience before God, I have come to the certainty that my strengths, due to an advanced age, are no longer suited to an adequate exercise of the Petrine ministry. I am well aware that this ministry, due to its essential spiritual nature, must be carried out not only with words and deeds, but no less with prayer and suffering. However, in today's world, subject to so many rapid changes and shaken by questions of deep relevance for the life of faith, in order to govern the bark of Saint Peter and proclaim the Gospel, both strength of mind and body are necessary, strength which in the last few months, has deteriorated in me to the extent that I have had to recognize my incapacity to adequately fulfill the ministry entrusted to me. For this reason, and well aware of the seriousness of this act, with full freedom I declare that I renounce the ministry of Bishop of Rome, Successor of Saint Peter, entrusted to me by the Cardinals on 19 April 2005, in such a way, that as from 28 February 2013, at 20:00 hours, the See of Rome, the See of Saint Peter, will be vacant and a Conclave to elect the new Supreme Pontiff will have to be convoked by those whose competence it is.

Dear Brothers, I thank you most sincerely for all the love and work with which you have supported me in my ministry and I ask pardon for all my defects. And now, let us entrust the Holy Church to the care of Our Supreme Pastor, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and implore his holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff. With regard to myself, I wish to also devotedly serve the Holy Church of God in the future through a life dedicated to prayer.

Pope Benedict XVI

Part of the Vicar General's Saturday Prayer for March 3, 2013 (which can be found on the OSMTH.org website).

There is a new round of Christian Leadership presently taking office in the churches around the world:

The Patriarch of Jerusalem; The Patriarch of Bulgaria; The Archbishop of Canterbury; And in a very short time the election of the new Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church We give thanks for their leadership in these difficult times and ask God's blessing upon them; praying that their ministry may cause a new light to shine within their respective Christian communities and in the world.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, may they prosper that love thee.

Psalm 122. 6.

HM King Peter II Coming back to his homeland

An article from Rev Sir Ron Matthewman, Vicar General, OSMTH

Earthly remains of HM King Peter II of Yugoslavia will be transferred to Belgrade, to the Royal Chapel of St. Andrew the First Called on Tuesday, 22 January 2013.

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander, Crown Princess Katherine, Princes Peter, Philip and Alexander, together with Crown Princess Katherine's daughter Alison, will wait for their father, grandfather and father in law at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport on 2 pm. H.E. Mr. Ivica Dacic, Prime Minister of Serbia and Prof. Dr. Oliver Antic, advisor to the President of Serbia H.E. Mr. Tomislav Nikolic and member of the Committee for transfer of remains of members of the Royal Family, with representatives of the Army of Serbia will also attend the event. His Holiness Patriarch Irinej of Serbia will serve the requiem for the late King starting on 3 pm, at the St. Andrew the First Called royal Chapel in Dedinje.

King Peter II of Yugoslavia (courtesy of Wikipedia)

Born 6th September 1923 - Died 3rd November 1970
Third and last King of Yugoslavia
And last reigning member of the Karadordevic Dynasty
(Godchild of George VI of the United Kingdom)

King Peter II was deposed by The Yugoslav Communist Assembly on November 29th 1945. After which he settled in the United States of America. He died in Denver, Colorado on November 3rd. 1930 and was buried in the St. Sava Monastery Church at Libertyville, Illinois. The only European Monarch to be buried on American soil.

The Templar Globe

I came across this publication quite by chance and read an article dated October 19th, 2007 about the formation of "The Admiral James J. Carey Foundation" which I found most interesting.

In it I read...

One last word about Admiral James Carey. It's common to hear scholars, leaders, researchers, students, simple amateurs, committed fans of Templar history and values, comment at length on all sorts of details about the virtues of Charity and Beneficence. It is however rare to find someone whose character has been so deeply carved by the Templar spirit that he decides to take the ultimate step and dedicate the last (let's hope long) stage of his presence among us to put all that he gathered, all that God directed his way, all that remained after a full accomplished life, place it all at the service of others. You can close all your Templar books now and you can cease all preaching. Example is the ultimate Templar weapon.

You can read the whole article at:

<http://templars.wordpress.com/2007/10/19/templar-leader-creates-foundation-to-help-future-generations/>

International News

I checked with the OSMTH web site and no new news there and no communication from the various International Pories but there again I can only read English so might have missed something. And so in lieu of International Templar news thought I'd bring some news from Scotland and Canada... and that's the result of getting a Scots-Canadian newsletter editor <grin>

Two interesting articles from the Church of Scotland which might give us some thoughts on how we might work along the same lines in our charitable work...

A Chinese New Year: Love never ends 8th Feb 2012

It is coming up to the end of the World Mission's "Year of China" and it has been quite a year since

we began our year at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland last May with its theme, "Love Never Ends."

The influence of the Gospel in China can be seen through the countless efforts made by Christians, past and present, in areas such as economics, education, culture and the growth of the church in China since 1949. We look back on some of the highlights of our year so far as China prepares to welcome its New Year this weekend.

It has been an exciting year for the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland and China. Members have read about China, the Council Convener the Very Rev. Dr. Andrew McLellan and Council Secretary have visited China. The first extensive official visit in 20-years of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was made by the then Moderator, the Very Rev. David Arnott.

[You can read the rest of this article here](#)

Speaking out against religious persecution 7th Feb 2013

Religious persecution in countries across the world has been condemned by Scotland's Minister for External Affairs and International Development, Humza Yousaf, at a meeting of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council held yesterday in Blantyre.

Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan, Convener of the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland said:

"The Church of Scotland is very pleased to welcome Mr Yousaf to the World Mission Council.

"He knows already the church's enthusiastic commitment to the IF Campaign for the ending of world hunger. He knows already the church's care for Christians in Pakistan living in great fear of persecution. We will talk about these things. And we will listen to his hopes and plans for a more just and peaceful world.

[You can read the rest of this article here](#)

United Church of Canada Increases Response to Syrian Humanitarian Crisis

Reports from major media services indicate that the crisis in Syria is deepening, resulting in ever-increasing numbers of internally displaced persons and refugees seeking safety in neighbouring countries.

Since violence erupted in Syria two years ago, some 60,000 people have been killed and an estimated 700,000 have fled to other countries including Jordan and Lebanon, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. A staggering 4 million people require emergency aid inside Syria, the CBC reports. Affected are not only Syrian nationals but also refugees from Palestine, Iraq, and other countries living inside Syria.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed on January 30, 2013, for an end to the violence and asked the international community for more aid to address a crisis he called "catastrophic" and "worsening by the day."

[You can read the rest of this article here](#)

More than \$18,000 raised for bike ambulances

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA February 06, 2013 - SIMON CHAMBERS / PWRDF

A bike ambulance in Kitele, Mozambique.



This year 30 new bicycle ambulances will start serving villages in Mozambique thanks to generous donors who gave more than \$18,000 through Gifts for Mission, the Anglican Church of Canada's gift guide. Bicycle ambulances are stretchers hitched to the back of bikes, providing faster trips to health clinics. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is setting up 100 ambulance projects in Mozambique. Each project is community run, provides employment, and connects with other maternal health programs.

One such ambulance was a gift from St. James Anglican Church in Ingersoll, Ont. For their outreach Sunday last year, St. James supported local and international causes-and raised \$600 for one bike ambulance.

So why a bike ambulance? Several St. James members had visited developing countries and seen huge gaps in health care.

The Rev. Meghan Evetts, rector of St. James, saw this when visiting Anglican partners in the Diocese of Mthatha, South Africa. Her group visited a slum and saw a small nursing station that only carried painkillers and bandages. Expectant mothers had to walk at least 10 kilometres to the clinic—often over rough dirt paths.

For the people of St. James, bicycle ambulances were an easy pick: they serve a practical need, help whole communities, and are easy to fix.

[See the whole article here](#)

Dalzeil Parish Church

I was told about this Parish Church in Scotland who are recording their Sunday service on YouTube. The service I watched was on 10th February 2013 featured a church in Turkey. I was very impressed with this production and perhaps we should aspire to do something similar to present one of our own Investitures? In this particular service the minister is talking about religious intolerance.

You can see this service at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuXdhR28syM&lr=1>

The Commonwealth

As part of our work to educate our Knights and Dames we thought we'd provide a summary on the Commonwealth of which Canada is a member.

The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 54 countries that support each other and work together towards shared goals in democracy and development.

The Commonwealth is home to two billion citizens of all faiths and ethnicities and includes some of the world's largest, smallest, richest and poorest countries. Over half of its citizens are 25 or under.

Member countries come from six regions: Africa (19); Asia (8); the Americas (3); the Caribbean (10); Europe (3); and the South Pacific (11).

Most recent members are: Rwanda - admitted at the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting; Cameroon; and Mozambique - the first country with no historical or administrative association to the Commonwealth to join.

History:

The association has roots as far back as the 1870s. It was reconstituted in 1949 when Commonwealth Prime Ministers met and adopted the 'London Declaration' where it was agreed all member countries would be "freely and equally associated."

Beliefs and Values:

The Commonwealth believes the best democracies are achieved through partnerships – of governments, business, and civil society.

Beyond the ties of history, language and institutions, members are united through the association's values of: democracy, freedom, peace, the rule of law and opportunity for all.

These values were agreed and set down by all Commonwealth Heads of Government at two of their biennial meetings (known as CHOGMs) in Singapore in 1971 and reaffirmed in Harare in 1991.

The values are protected at government level by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), a rotating group of nine Foreign Ministers, which assesses the nature of any infringement and recommends measures for collective action from member countries. It can suspend or recommend to Heads of Government that a member country be expelled. When countries are suspended, the Commonwealth makes every effort to bring them back into the fold.

While CMAG represents one aspect of the Commonwealth's commitment to democratic principles, many more discreet interventions are made through 'good offices' work, where specially appointed representatives conduct quiet diplomacy to help prevent or resolve conflicts and build dialogue and democratic structures.

Meetings:

Heads of Government and ministers responsible for; education, environment, civil society, finance, foreign affairs, gender affairs, health, law, tourism and youth all meet regularly. This ensures that Commonwealth policies and programmes represent views of members and gives governments a better understanding of each other's goals.

Structure:

HM Queen Elizabeth II is Head of the Commonwealth. Kamallesh Sharma, current Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, is the principal global advocate for the Commonwealth and Chief Executive of the Secretariat.

There are three intergovernmental organisations:

Commonwealth Secretariat - executes plans agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government through technical assistance, advice and policy development;

Commonwealth Foundation - helps civil society organisations promote democracy, development and cultural understanding;

Commonwealth of Learning - encourages the development and sharing of open learning and distance education.

Commonwealth Network:

The Commonwealth values citizen-to-citizen links as much as contacts between member governments. Its worldwide network of around 90 professional and advocacy organisations continues to grow. A third of these are based outside the UK. They work at local, national, regional or international levels and play crucial roles in policy, political or social aspects of Commonwealth life. The Commonwealth Games Federation, which manages the four-yearly multi-sport event, is one such organisation.

Commonwealth countries work together in a spirit of co-operation, partnership and understanding. Openness and flexibility are integral to the Commonwealth's effectiveness. Emphasis on equality has helped it play leading roles in decolonisation, combating racism and advancing sustainable development in poor countries. This support network of countries and organisations is involved in a diverse range of work, from helping trade negotiations, building the small business sector, encouraging women entrepreneurs, supporting the quality and quantity of teachers, and increasing understanding of HIV/AIDS.

Commonwealth Globally:

Commonwealth ideas have been taken up by the World Bank on Small States, by the World Health Organization on the migration of doctors and nurses, by the International Labour Organization on the migration of teachers. Its support and expertise have been enlisted by the European Union (EU) and the African Union on building governance in Africa, and by the EU and the Pacific Islands Forum on building governance in the Pacific.

The Commonwealth is part of the world that it serves, sharing the same interests as those of its citizens: democratic freedom and economic and social development.

You can learn more at <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/>

Oil Sands Bust

How the most valuable resource in our history got mired in politics, protests and logistical nightmares. An article from MacLean's Magazine.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper first dubbed Canada an "emerging energy superpower" back in 2006. He was talking, primarily, about Alberta's oil sands. "We are a stable, reliable producer in a volatile, unpredictable world," he said, sending a clear signal that Ottawa intended to realize the oil sands' full economic potential, as well as the geopolitical clout that comes along with it.

More than six years later, however, Canada's superpower dreams are mired in a host of unexpected problems—economic, logistical and political—none of which will be easily solved. Bitumen is still being squeezed from the ground at a rate of 1.7 million barrels per day and growing. But it's no longer clear how oil companies plan to deliver all that heavy crude, which they once estimated would reach 3.7 million barrels per day by 2021, to refineries and, ultimately, the motoring public.

Read more about this at <http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/02/05/oil-sands-bust/>

G7

The G7 is an international finance group consisting of the finance ministers from seven industrialized nations: the US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. They are the 7 largest and wealthiest nations on Earth.

It is interesting to note that of those 7 countries only Canada and Germany retain a Triple A credit rating!

Book Review

"Getting by in a Silent Word" Life and Times of Jack the Barber.

Jack L Cooke was born October 17th 1928 and spent his growing up years on the old farm on the Mitchell Road, near the village of Motherwell, in Fullarton township of Perth County, Ontario, Canada. Jack was a child of the 30's thus he has a much larger dimension of life than those who were born later. He learned early in life the difference between necessities of life and the luxuries. Thus he is better able to appreciate the good things life offers today, yet mourn some of what he left behind.



There was a time when no one locked their doors and milk came from your own cow or was delivered to your door. The mailman came 6 days a week and delivered mail and picked up letters from your mailbox. It was a time when the whole family walked friends or uncles and aunts to the horse and buggy or to the car to say their "Good Byes" because they knew they loved them.

However no one thing changed Jack's life so much as his hearing loss due to scarlet fever when he was 12 years old. It seemed all plans for a normal future were dashed. The world at that time, much more so than today did not know how to accept the deaf.

After wandering western Canada as a hired man for several years he returned to Ontario and took up barbering. Jack ran his own shop cutting hair for over 50 years in South London. He is now comfortably retired in London. Jack is the author of "Getting By In A Silent World" and a 2nd book "Motherwell - A Walk Down Memory Lane" and a 3rd book called, "Looking Back Over My Shoulder"

You can read this book at:

<http://www.electriccanadian.com/makers/jcooke/index.htm> but it would be great if you could purchase a copy!

Christians Under Threat

We provide a few reports that are thought provoking and as a Christian Order we should be aware of and thinking about how we can help.

Nigeria Kills 13 Boko Haram Militants as Massacre of Christians Continues



The Nigerian armed forces have fought back against the Islamic militant group Boko Haram, killing 13 suspected combatants in an attack on their stronghold in the town of Maiduguri on Tuesday.

The news was confirmed by the Joint Task Force Operation Restore Order, who said that they lost one soldier in the gunfight, CNN reported. Military spokesman Sagir Musa said that that Boko Haram

have been carrying out "incessant callous, brutal, barbaric and impious killings," and Human Rights Watch estimate that the Islamic group, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege," have killed more than 2,800 people in the last several years, including at least 34 since Christmas.

On Christmas Eve, raids on two separate churches resulted in the deaths of 12 worshippers, including a pastor. Another 15 Christians were massacred six days later on Sunday at another church in Northern Nigeria.

"We had warned that Boko Haram would continue its tradition of killing Nigerian Christians on Christmas day. Last week marked the third straight year that the terror group has murdered Nigerian Christians in the church on a Christmas day," a statement by the Christian Association of Nigerian-Americans noted, calling for more action on behalf of authorities.

Amid Mali's upheaval, Christians stand firm

Islamist rebels early last year used widespread instability created by warring factions in the north to impose Shariah law in areas where they gained control. They reportedly destroyed church buildings and sought to eliminate any hint of Christianity.

The Priority of Prayer

By Michael Youssef, Ph.D.

Nothing pleases Satan more than coming between you and the Lord in your time of intimacy and prayer. He knows prayer is key to your power and victory over him—and if he can cut your power at the source, then he will succeed in weakening you spiritually.

A problem with many people is that they pray only when they are in trouble. Yet, the Gospel tells us that Jesus habitually rose early in the morning, before daybreak, to meet with the Father. If the Son of the living God gave priority to that time, how much more should we? Prayer and intimate communion with God was Jesus' spiritual food.

It is important to know that the purpose of prayer is for God to be glorified. God is the focus of prayer—because through prayer, God reveals His goodness and power. Jesus said, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father" (John 14:13).

Indeed, prayer is for God's glory, not just our needs. However, when God meets our needs, He is glorified. There are some who see prayer simply as lining up with what God has already foreordained, and there is nothing we can do other than conform to His will. On the other hand, there are those who think that prayer is asking God to do what He would not and could not do without our requests.

The Scripture teaches both views—and we are under obligation before God to hold both views in tension. The Bible teaches that God is, without a doubt, sovereign. The Bible also teaches that God, within His sovereignty, responds to His people when they pray with a right focus.

There are people who are terrified to ask God for anything. This is not consistent with His will. On the other hand, there are some who treat God like a bellhop who moves only at their commands. Both are extreme, and both are wrong.

When children are young—and even sometimes when they are older—they ask for all kinds of things. Do we give them everything they want? Of course we don't. We give them what we believe is best for them. If we, as fallen men and women, know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more does our heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him (see Matthew 7:11)?

How, then, should we pray? God in His magnificence knew there would be many times when we didn't have the wisdom to pray as we should, so He commissioned the Holy Spirit to intercede for us.

In Romans 8:26, Paul wrote, “We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words.” And that is why in Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus gave His disciples a succinct, meticulous, and comprehensive outline of what true prayer should be like—and it is called the Lord’s Prayer.

In Matthew 6:9, Jesus said, “Pray . . . in this way,” meaning “Along these lines” or “in such a pattern.” Still, we must remember that in Matthew 6:5-8, Jesus warned His followers not to pray like the Pharisees, using meaningless, repetitious prayers. To be clear, He is not replacing one meaningless, repetitious prayer with another. Instead, Jesus is giving them—and us—a model.

Jesus wants us to learn to follow the Lord’s Prayer as a pattern of praise, adoration, and petition. It is a guide for our prayer life, not a substitute for it. When we understand this guide and use it, we will experience power in prayer like we have never experienced before.

Canadian History

Books of John McDougall

Here we have seven books that are an account of growing up in and around Alberta in the days before roads and railways and accounts of contact with the First Nations people.

John McDougall was born in 1842 in Sydenham, Upper Canada to George and Elizabeth McDougall. George McDougall was a Methodist missionary and, as a result, John grew up attending mission schools and learning to speak Ojibwa and Cree.

In 1862, George McDougall (by this time the Superintendent for the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada) decided to move his mission West, and the family relocated to the Victoria Mission. There, John worked as an interpreter and teacher and, in 1864, married Abigail, the eldest daughter of the Reverend Henry Bird Steinhauer and Jessie Mamanuwartum. That same year he became a candidate for missionary service.

John and Abigail were appointed to reopen the Pigeon Lake Mission, from which John visited Aboriginal camps and Hudson’s Bay Company posts at Rocky Mountain House and Fort Edmonton. These were tumultuous years for the missionary: violence was escalating between the Assinboine, Cree and Blackfoot tribes; in 1870-71 a smallpox epidemic swept the plains; and in 1871, Abigail died. After his wife’s death, John travelled back to Upper Canada where he was ordained and married his second wife, Elizabeth Boyd. In 1873, they moved south and established a new mission at Morley, on the banks of the Bow River, to serve the Stoney people.

Throughout his life, John McDougall was involved in public and Aboriginal affairs. During the 1870s he was present for the negotiation of Treaty 6 and Treaty 7. During the North-West Rebellion he accompanied the Alberta Field Force, negotiating with tribes to stay on the side of the government. In 1897, he was named chairman of the Indian District, comprising parts of all four present western provinces. After his retirement in 1906, he served as a commissioner for the Dominion Government and Department of Indian Affairs and later (unsuccessfully) ran as a Liberal representative for Calgary Centre. In 1917, John McDougall died in Calgary.

In his later years, John McDougall, wrote his memoirs in six volumes. His popular style and romantic imagery fed the imagination of his readers. As controversial as some of his writings may appear today, they describe the environment and people of Western Canada in luscious detail and discuss many of the debates that occurred during that turbulent period. They help to create a picture of a generation of Albertans and, consequently, remain a source of information for historians.

John received many honours for his work as a missionary. He was elected in 1893 and 1906 to serve as President of Conference to the Methodist Church and, in 1903, he received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Victoria College. The United Church restored his mission church at Morley and in 1977 declared it a historic site, recognizing its importance in the development of Methodism in Western Canada. Both John and his wife Elizabeth Boyd were, during their later years, counted among the most prominent citizens in Calgary.

You can read all his books at:

<http://www.electricenseadain.com/pioneering/mcdougall/index.htm>

Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

I have been researching The First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples of Canada. I have to say that this is with no help from these nations so I have been left with searching for antiquarian books about them. I have actually found a lot of material and to this I have been adding a page for videos I've found on YouTube. So between all the books and videos there is now quite a collection of material for you to read and watch.

Given the "Idle no more" movement I thought it would be interesting to learn more about Canada's Aboriginal peoples so you can get to all my research at:

<http://www.electricenseadain.com/history/first/index.htm>

Why Men are seldom depressed

Men Are Just Happier People -- What do you expect from such simple creatures?

Your last name stays put.

The garage is all yours.

Wedding plans take care of themselves.

Chocolate is just another snack.

You can be President.

You can never be pregnant.

You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park.

You can wear NO shirt to a water park.

Car mechanics tell you the truth.

The world is your urinal.

You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky.

You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt.

Same work, more pay.

Wrinkles add character.

Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental-\$100.

People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.

New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet.

One mood all the time.

Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat.

You know stuff about tanks.

A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.

You can open all your own jars.

You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.

If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend.

Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack.

Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

You almost never have strap problems in public.

You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.

Everything on your face stays its original color.

The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades.

You only have to shave your face and neck.

You can play with toys all your life.

One wallet and one pair of shoes -- one color for all seasons.

You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.

You can 'do' your nails with a pocket knife.

You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache.

You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives On December 24 in 25 minutes.

No wonder men are happier.

And if the Dames would like to send in their version we'd be happy to publish it in the next issue
<grin>

Don't force the church on children

Moderator warns amid fears that forcing attendance may put young off religion.

THE Moderator of the Church of Scotland has warned that children should not be forced to attend kirk services as it risks putting them off religion.

The Rt Rev Albert Bogle believes it may be counter-productive for the iPod generation to have to sit on pews and be made to listen to ministers "rabbiting on".

Instead, Bogle, who was appointed at the Kirk's General Assembly earlier this year, says young people are more likely to become churchgoers if parents and grandparents first start informal faith discussions in the family home.

The 63-year-old minister, who delivered a sermon to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and welcomed the Dalai Lama to Scotland, has also claimed that people are as likely to find God in the coffee chain Starbucks as they are in church.

However, his liberal stance on formal worship has attracted strong criticism from the Free Church of Scotland.

Bogle, who is based in Bo'ness, West Lothian, said: "The biggest influence for Christianity are older people reaching out to younger people in their families and sharing a bit of their faith without asking them to come to church with them, to sit on a pew and listen to minister rabbiting on.

"Just to sit and tell their story of faith to their children and grandchildren. I think sometimes that's the most effective way."

The Moderator feels that grandparents, in particular, have a crucial role to play in passing on their Christian faith.

He said: "My experience is that this younger generation that is growing up really do love their grannies and grandads.

"Whether it's because grannies and grandads have become kinder people and more interested in their grandchildren I don't know, but I think there is something unique happening in society today."

The Glasgow-born cleric also suggested that adults should not have to attend services to demonstrate their faith. Instead he argued that spirituality is not confined to churches and individuals can make a valid connection with God while drinking coffee or admiring nature.

He said: "Too many people who are 'religious' give the impression that God can only be encountered behind church walls and in church services.

"But, do you know what? I've got news for everyone. God is in the world. He is walking about in the street. God might make a connection with you when you are drinking a cappuccino in Starbucks. Something of God's presence touches you or you see something of beauty and it stirs you."

Rev David Robertson, of St Peter's Free Church in Dundee, felt the Kirk Moderator's position was ill thought out.

He said: "In order for parents and grandparents to pass on their Christian faith they must first hear it.

"If some ministers are 'rabbiting on,' perhaps it's time for them to learn to communicate the word of God in an effective and contemporary way to all generations. It is a bit idealistic to think that God will connect with you as you sip your cappuccino in Starbucks. The problem with the Church of Scotland is that rather than there being too much preaching from the Bible, there has been, in all too many

cases, a famine of hearing the word of the Lord."

But Bogle was praised by the National Secular Society, whose campaign manager Stephen Evans said: "Being forced to attend services at an early age puts many people off religion for life."

Editors Note: Given the sentence above - "If some ministers are 'rabbiting on,' perhaps it's time for them to learn to communicate the word of God in an effective and contemporary way to all generations."

A very popular page on my Electric Scotland web site is the story "Grandfather tells the Children the story of the Great Flood". It has often been played in Sunday schools across the world. It was written in the Scots idiom by Scots-Canadian Frances Kerr Young, and is a story of a Scottish Grandfather visiting his son in Canada and telling the story of Noah's Ark to his two wee grand-daughters. After I posted it up Peter Wright, then chairman of the Scots Independent Newspaper, asked Francis if he could do an audio recording of it and so we also have that audio recording on the site. The picture on the page is of Peter reading the story to his own two grand-daughters and you can read and listen to the story at: http://www.electricscotland.com/poetry/young/great_flood.htm and perhaps get it played or read in your own church or Sunday school.

From Thomas Cook Holidays

Listing some of their UK clientele's genuine complaints.

1. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
2. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
3. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food at all."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our swimming costumes and towels."
7. "The beach was too sandy."
8. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as yellow but it was white."
10. "Topless sunbathing on the beach should be banned. The holiday was ruined as my husband spent all day looking at other women."
12. "No-one told us there would be fish in the sea. The children were startled."
13. "There was no egg-slicer in the apartment."
14. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
15. "The roads were uneven.."
16. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home."
17. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom apartment to our friends' three-bedroom apartment and ours was significantly smaller."
18. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the accommodation'. We're trainee hairdressers -- will we be OK staying there?"

19. "There are too many Spanish people. The receptionist speaks Spanish. The food is Spanish. Too many foreigners now live abroad."
 20. "We had to queue outside with no air-conditioning."
 21. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
 22. "I was bitten by a mosquito. No-one said they could bite."
 23. "My fiancé and I booked a twin-bedded room but we were placed in a double-bedded room. We now hold you responsible for the fact that I find myself pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."
-

Easter

Here is a Homilie from our Grand Chancellor Rev, Dame Nola Crewe to consider during Easter...

Luke 22:14-23.56 or 23:1-49

14. When the hour came he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.
15. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;
16. for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
17. Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves;
18. for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
19. Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
20. And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
21. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.
22. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"
23. Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

CHRIST'S LAST PASSOVER

To-day, as on each Palm Sunday, we took our faith openly to our streets: we waved our palms, just as the people in long-ago Jerusalem tore the branches from the trees and waved them and threw them down to make soft the path that Christ's colt was treading as they cried out their welcome. To-day we have sung out our praise in the words of King David as we rejoice in the day that the Lord has given us and we entered into this place of worship thanking Jesus for our salvation.

But we Christians, particularly Anglicans, are rather shy about such open proclamations of our faith: it does tend to be a once-a-year event . . . once-a-year we venture forth from our church, feeling rather sheepish, a bit anxious that no one we know walks by and asks what we are about. We parade to the corner, offer up a prayer, and then scuttle back to the safe confines of our church, singing the ever quickening *King of Kings*.

And that is how we largely live our faith. Comfortable in our own pew, surrounded by others who share that same faith. And it is largely in these pews that we confine our faith.

But Christ gave us a special gift to strengthen us both within and beyond these walls. A special gift that is His covenant, His promise to us of eternal life and salvation.

When Christ taught his followers, he was preparing them not for the safe and familiar but for the challenge of the unknown. Just as He knew the journey he was making toward the cross, so too He knew the road ahead for those who would follow Him: the pitfalls and the triumphs and the sacrifice.

And to equip us for our lives as Christians, before Christ died, He gave us a daily reminder of all that we have been given.

It happened at what has become known as the "Last Supper". Christ was gathered together with his family and friends and followers at a home in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

Now the Passover is, and was, a celebration of God saving His people. The Israelis had been slaves under the Egyptian pharaohs and God freed them and led them out of that land and into the promised land of milk and honey. So Passover is a time of looking back at the greatness of God and his fidelity to his people.

And the Passover dinner is a time when the old stories are retold by the most senior member of the family, so that all will remember and be grateful.

At the dinner, a child asks the question "Why is this night different from all other nights . . ." and the answer begins with an explanation of why special foods are eaten at that meal.

"We eat only MATZOH because our ancestors could not wait for their breads to rise when they were fleeing slavery in Egypt and so they took the breads out of their ovens while they were still flat, which was MATZOH".

We eat only MORORS, the bitter herbs such as horseradish or Romaine lettuce, to remind us of the bitterness of slavery that our ancestors endured while in Egypt.

But we dip the MOROR in CHAROSES, which is a sweet mixture of nuts, raisins and apples, honey, wine and cinnamon, which symbolize how tears were replaced with gratefulness and how the burden of bitterness and suffering was sweetened to lessen its pain.

We dip the green vegetables in salt water to recall the tears we cried but the greens represent the hope and redemption of leaving Egypt

We eat a ROASTED EGG, as the egg is a symbol of life and the perpetuation of existence.

ZEROAH, the shankbone of the roasted lamb, symbolizes the paschal sacrificial offering that was offered first in the temple and after the sacrifice was enjoyed at the Passover Dinner.

And during the meal four glasses of wine are consumed to represent the four-fold promise of redemption: taking the Jews out of Israel; rescuing them from slavery redeeming them with an outstretched arm and great judgments and taking them to Him for His people.

Finally, the elder explains why they are reclining at the Passover meal. In ancient times, a person who reclined at a meal was a free person, free from slavery, and so reclining at the meal reminds one of the glory of freedom.

So now we know the menu and how the meal that Christ last shared was enjoyed.

Today, most people think of the very famous Leonardo da Vinci painting of the Last Supper, when they think of that meal. They see the 12 apostles and Christ, seated on one side of a long table.

But da Vinci lived in the 15th century. And the picture he painted was more that of a medieval banquet, rather than a 1st century Jewish Passover Seder. And even though da Vinci's picture has become the reality of the Last Supper for so many people: it just isn't the way it was.

When Christ sat down to that supper, there wasn't a table with chairs or benches about it. He would have been reclining on the floor, everyone gathered in groups of 4 or 5 around large platters or low tables. There would have been men and women and children all celebrating the holiday together. And that is the picture we should be recalling when we CELEBRATE the sharing of this meal.

For Christians that particular Passover was made the most special in the gift that Christ gave us.

As ever, Christ took the elements with which those about Him were familiar, to make His point.

Just as at holiday dinners most of us ask God to bless the food and drink we are about to enjoy: so it was with Christ. He took the bread, the special Passover, unleavened, Matzos bread and told His followers that whenever they ate bread they should see in it His body which He was soon to sacrifice for them.

And, just as we often make a toast to special people or events during a dinner party, so too did Christ when He lifted up His glass of the wine that they were all drinking and told them, whenever you're drinking your wine in the future, remember me and the fact that my blood will be shed for you.

He used the very ordinary, very everyday elements of life that men and women and children throughout the world and throughout the ages have enjoyed. The bread and wine of dinnertime. The food and drink that would ensure that Christ's memory was shared in their homes, in their lives, in the everyday activities in which we all engage.

And He told them that these familiar items were to symbolize the New Covenant: the Covenant between Christ and His people; the Covenant of His body and blood, given for us so that our sins would be forgiven.

Because Christ commanded that we remember Him in wine and bread, we have elevated it to the very formal ceremony of Holy Communion, the Eucharist . . . in which we acknowledge our great debt and honour His sacrifice.

But Christ, the new sacrificial lamb of the Passover, wanted more than that. He wanted to be in our lives beyond the walls of the churches. He wanted to share our homes and our day-to-day activities. He wanted His light to light our lives and His example lead us to love and care for others. And in choosing bread and wine to be His memorial, He gave us the opportunity to remember Him in every meal we share. And to go forth strengthened in both body and soul, to walk these streets with Christ everyday, meeting friends and strangers alike, knowing they too are God's children, loved and beloved.

So let the lifting of each glass of wine recall to us our eternal debt to our Saviour and with morning toast, our luncheon sandwich, or the breaking of a roll at dinner, remind us that we all share in the feast of Christ's life and rejoice in His gifts of life and salvation.

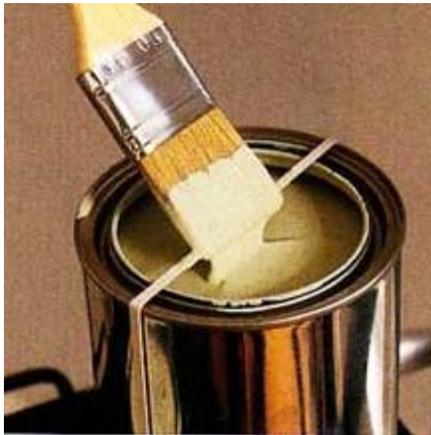
AMEN

Some Good Tips

Use a (clean) dustpan to fill a container that doesn't fit in the sink.



Place a rubber band around an open paint can to wipe your brush on, and keep paint off the side of the can.



Use a staple remover to save your fingernails when trying to add things to your key ring!



Put wooden spoon across boiling pot of water to keep from boiling over.



Use bread clips to save flip-flops with split holes



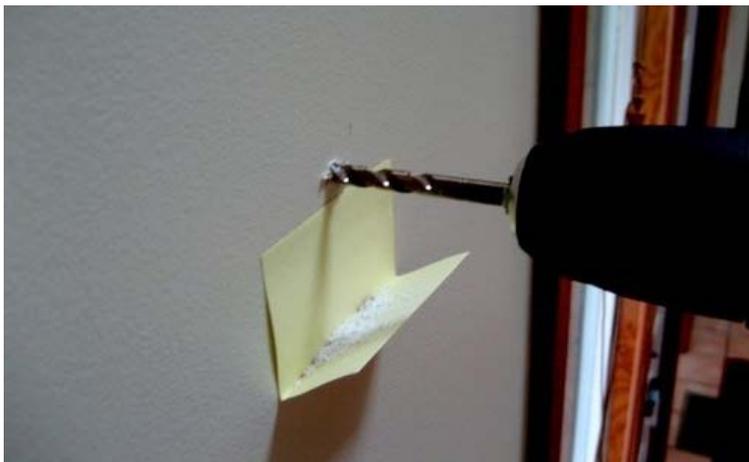
How to keep the straw from rising out of your soda can



Use a Comb to Keep a Nail Steady for Hammering

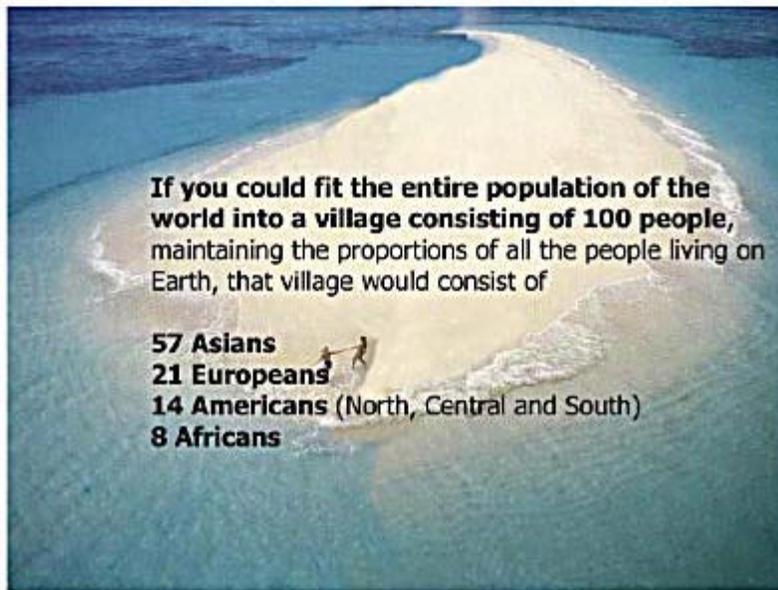


Use a post it note to catch drilling debris.



Now, where are those old flip flops of mine ????

Lightning in a Jar



This is a thought provoking way of looking at the world and was provided in a pdf file which you can download at:

<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/3781-Lightning-in-a-Jar>

How do you know when it is time to "hang up the car keys"?

I say when your dog has this look on his face!...



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